

Chairs, leaders and members of the Commerce Committees,

I would like to formally support the 3 bills being discussed at the Thursday, February 21st meeting of the General Assembly Commerce Committee meeting: SB-854, SB-855 and SB-856.

Regarding SB-854- there are a great many lifelong careers available in precision manufacturing today. Many of those careers do not require 4 year college degrees, however they do need specialized training at the community college level or in similar education programs.

High schools should be encouraged and rewarded for helping their students achieve career success by advocating for this training and these career opportunities. Not wanting to pursue a 4 year degree does not have to be a barrier to a successful career.

I strongly support SB-855. A cabinet level secretary for manufacturing would be an invaluable advocate for one of the most important sectors in Connecticut's economy. Manufacturing is one of the areas where CT seriously punches above it's weight and a cabinet level secretary would be the recognition of this. Given the unique needs for manufacturing across all sectors of government, from education to economic development, a single advocate at the state level would be an effective way to reduce silos and focus collaboration and communication through a single point of contact.

SB-856 is also very important. State policies and investment work best when the beneficiaries of those investments have a seat at the table for input and discussion.

Thank you very much for your time and for considering these bills,

Pedro Soto
President of the Board of Directors, Aerospace Component Manufacturing Association